

# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Science Department Chairperson  
**From:** Velma Itamura  
**Date** January 20, 2008  
**Subject:** Utah Science Student Awards

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The 2008 Utah Science Student Awards provides high school seniors an opportunity to compete for trips and scholarships upon their research in science. The awards for this year include two all-expense paid trips to the National Youth Science Camp in West Virginia as well as scholarship opportunities at state institutions of higher education.

Enclosed you will find an application form, which you may use to make as many copies as you need. Please encourage your top science students to enter the Utah Science Student Awards. The deadline this year is February 29, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please call Velma Itamura at 801-538-7803.

Thank you for your support.

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Enc. (14)

# **UTAH SCIENCE STUDENT AWARDS**

Velma Itamura

UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

250 East 500 South

P.O. Box 144200

Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Utah Science Student Awards is conducted each year during the month of March. Entrants are limited to the young men and woman who are seniors in high school the year they enter the competition. This activity is sponsored by the Utah State Office of Education.

## **PROCEDURES**

Students may enter the Utah Science Student Awards by:

1. Submitting a research paper following the format given.
2. Completing entry form pages 1-5.
3. Having his/her sponsoring teacher and principal complete the appropriate sections of the entry form.
4. Having his/her sponsoring teacher mail the research paper along with all other parts of the application in a single packet to Velma Itamura, Utah State Office of Education, 250 East 500 South, P.O. Box 144200, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200.

Please note: this material must be in our office prior to 5:00 p.m. on February 29, 2008.

## **JUDGING**

A panel of scientists and science educators (usually 4-5) from several Utah universities serve as judges for the Utah Science Student Awards. There is a preliminary screening of the entrants' materials followed by a personal interview with the six or seven students whose work is perceived by the judges to be the most outstanding.

## **AWARDS**

In the past, the first and second place winners have been invited, with all expenses paid, to attend the National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) in West Virginia. This camp runs for approximately four weeks during the latter part of June and the first part of July.

Several scholarship awards have also been made available in the past from our State universities and private enterprises.

## **THE ENTRY FORM**

If additional space is needed for responses, place inserts behind the page with the corresponding question, and indicate the question number.

### **Part I – Student Questionnaire**

When completed, a teacher or advisor should review the form to ensure the information given is complete. Attach the information on awards, honors and extracurricular activities on a separate sheet if necessary. Students who answer questions on a separate sheet of paper should retype the questions on that sheet and insert their answers.

### **Part II – Essay Questions**

Give specific, concrete examples of past accomplishments in each area. Faculty member(s) or advisor(s) who knows the student well should review the statements with the student. Complete information will enable the judges to make fair evaluations.

### **Part IIA – Supervising Scientist Form**

This form is required when the student's project is conducted in a scientist's laboratory, a pre-college research program or a summer institute. The student's research supervisor must complete it.

### **Part III – Teacher/Advisor Recommendation Form**

This form must be completed by the teacher or advisor who knows best the day-to-day performance of the student. Comments may be provided by more than one teacher or mentor (not to exceed three) on separate sheets.

### **Part IV – Secondary School Record**

This section must be completed by the principal. Part IV should be submitted in a sealed school envelope with the entry form or separately. It must arrive by 5:00 p.m. on February 29, 2008. Failure to provide this information will result in disqualification.

**DO NOT STAPLE OR TAPE ANY PAGES OF YOUR ENTRY FORM.**

**ENTRIES WILL BE PHOTOCOPIED, SO PLEASE USE DARK INK.**

## **THE RESEARCH REPORT**

The report should include: 1) a specific title, 2) a short introduction describing the background and purpose of the work, 3) an experimental section including methods and results, 4) a short concluding section discussing the results and their implications and, 5) a bibliography.

Details illustrating the procedures and results should be included in tables, diagrams, charts, photographs, drawings, or maps and drawn or labeled neatly in black ink whenever possible. Each student must include with the report a 75-word summary of the project in layperson's terms. The summary should follow the title page. The summaries from finalists' projects will be used in preparing press releases to convey information about the projects to the general public.

### **What is the purpose of the report?**

Your project report is evidence of research ability, scientific ability, scientific originality, and creative thinking. This report is your opportunity to demonstrate that you can plan and complete a project in science, mathematics or engineering.

### **Must the report record only original work?**

Your project need not be entirely original: most research must build on the work of others. Strive for originality, even if you work with experiments already performed. Show the **additional work that is your own**.

Get help. Exhaust every possible resource: books, technical journals, experts in the field, your advisors. Give names, addresses and telephone numbers of those who helped you.

### **Should the report be autobiographical?**

No. Do not go into lengthy autobiographical detail about the development of your interest in science. This personal history, while interesting, does not provide proof of your scientific, mathematical or engineering abilities.

### **Should the report be historical?**

Only incidentally; investigate the literature pertaining to your subject, but do not use the literature as your report. Any history of the literature should only provide background for your work and not be the purpose or subject of your research. You must choose a subject that you can investigate firsthand.

### **How soon should I start on my project?**

Start work on your project as soon as possible. Emergencies or changes in plans may arise and take more time than you anticipate. Think through all details of defining your problem, setting up controls, collecting and recording your data, and determining what you are seeking in your final results. Give yourself ample time because, as your work progresses, you will see opportunities for constant improvement.

## MAILING

Before submitting the Utah Science Student Awards entry materials to the Utah State Office of Education, please read the following:

1. Each student must submit a Project Report, a completed entry form, an official high school transcript, and available standardized test scores.
2. The student's name must appear at the upper right-hand corner of each piece of paper submitted to the Utah Science Student Awards.
3. A statement from the student's supervising scientist (see Part IIA of the entry form) must be submitted if the student did research in a summer institute, a pre-college student research program or a scientist's laboratory. This statement may accompany the entry form or be sent to the Utah State Office of Education separately so that it arrives *by the February 29, 5:00 p.m. deadline.*
4. If your project involves human subjects or live vertebrates, please contact Erica Horsley at 801-538-7503 for additional information.
5. Only complete entries will be judged. Please do not send incomplete entries.

**Please do not submit projects in report covers or presentation folders as they are removed and discarded during processing.**

### **DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 29, 2008**

#### **ENTRIES FOR THE UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION'S SCIENCE AWARDS FOR THE 2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR**

Entries must be received by 5:00 p.m., February 29, 2008 at:

Utah State Office of Education  
Velma Itamura  
250 East 500 South  
P.O. Box 144200  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200

If the judging process has not been completed, late entries will be accepted only if:

- 1) Postmarked by February 24, 2008 or
- 2) Sent by a carrier that guaranteed delivery in writing by the 5:00 p.m. deadline.

We strongly recommend early entries to avoid any delivery delays. NOTE: the U.S. Postal Service's registered or certified mail is for tracking purposes only, and is NOT the same as an overnight mail service/courier, which delivers overnight. Priority Mail DOES NOT GUARANTEE, IN WRITING, delivery in two days.